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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT:TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 16, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: THURSDAY MORNING PAPERS ASSESS IMPACT OF MA'ALOT INCIDENT, REPORT SERIOUS SETBACK IN HAK PEACE EFFORT THOUGH US OFFICIALS CONVINCED BOTH SIDES STILL WANT ACCORD. AFTER-NOON WIRES EMPHASIZE GREATER UNCERTAINTY OF HAK DISENGAGEMENT EFFORTS DUE TO ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES INTO LEBANON AND A REPORTED ISRAELI PROPOSAL FOR 10-DAY SUSPENSION OF TRUCE TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. NYT PAGE 1 ARTICLE, PRESUMABLY BY GWERTZMAN, ASSESSES IMPACT OF MA'ALOT INCIDENT UNDER HEAD "SETBACK IS SEEN IN PEACE EFFORTS: MOVES FOR A COMPROMISE ON ISRAELI-SYRIAN TROOPS ARE CALLED IMPAIRED". SAYS HAK TELLS HIS AIDES HE IS DETERMINED NOT TO LET INCIDENT UNDERMINE PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ISRAELI AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS FEEL EVENTS HAVE IMPAIRED HIS EFFORTS TO GET LAST-MINUTE COMPROMISE. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY MA'ALOT WILL NOT HAVE LONG-TERM SIGNIFICANCE IN DISENGAGEMENT TALKS SINCE HAK CONVINCED BOTH SIDES WANT ACCORD. ISRAELI OFFICIALS REGARD DISENGAGE-
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MENT THIS TRIP OUT OF THE QUESTION BUT AGREE HAK COULD WORK

OUT SOLUTION IN FEW WEEKS TIME. HAK MA'ALOT STATEMENT
REPRINTED IN ENTIRETY. SECOND GWERTZMAN PIECE PAGE 1

COVERS MEIR SPEECH "MRS. MEIR PLEDGES STEPS TO PROTECT
ISRAELI PEOPLE".

2. BERGER STORY PAGE 27 OF POST UNDER HEAD "PEACE MISSION
BY KISSINGER DEALT SETBACK" REPORTS MA'ALOT ATTACK STRIKES
SERIOUS BLOW AT HAK DISENGAGEMENT EFFORTS. ISRAELI AND
AMERICAN OFFICIALS SEEK TO DISSOCIATE ATTACK FROM
NEGOTIATIONS, BUT BERGER FEELS ATTACK POSSIBLY DIMINISHES
ALREADY FALTERING PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT. MCCLOSKEY
SAYS EFFECT OF MA'ALOT ON NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CLEAR
ONLY AFTER HAK MEETS WITH ISRAELIS THURSDAY MORNING.
ISRAELI SOURCES REPORT CABINET SEEKING WAY TO PRESENT
MORE ACCOMMODATING FACE TO SYRIANS, FEAR SITUATION LIKELY
TO DETERIORATE IF NEGOTIATIONS SUSPENDED. INDICATIONS --
UNCONFIRMED BY US OFFICIALS -- THAT HAK IN TOUCH WITH ARAB
LEADERS IN EFFORT TO HAVE THEM SPEAK OUT AGAINST
TERRORISTS. MCCLOSKEY ASKED ABOUT US AFFIRMATIVE VOTE ON
UN CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI REPRISAL RAID, SAYS US ALWAYS
ATTEMPTS TO CAST VOTE ON MERITS OF ISSUE. BERGER FEELS
MA'ALOT MAKES IT ALL THE MORE NECESSARY FOR HAK TO CONTINUE
HIS MISSION.

3. GLOBE CARRIES JHABVALA ARTICLE PAGE 1 ,KISSINGER
POSTPONES TALKS" LEADING WITH ONE DAY DELAY IN TALKS
WITH ISRAELIS AND QUOTES FROM HAK MA'ALOT STATEMENT.
RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS HAK IN TOUCH WITH EGYPTIAN GOVERN-
MENT TO GET SADAT CONDEMNATION OF ATTACK. JHABVALA SEES
NO ENCOURAGING SIGNS THAT HAK WILL ACHIEVE BREAKTHROUGH
IN DEADLOCK. ISRAELI OFFICIALS LABEL ATTACK "THE LAST
NAIL TO SEAL THE COFFIN" OF DISENGAGEMENT, BUT US APPEARS
UNWILLING TO THROW IN TOWEL YET. US OFFICIALS SAY HAK
HAS MADE PROGRESS IN NARROWING GAP, PROBABLY WILL HAVE
TO SUSPEND NEGOTIATIONS TWO OR THREE WEEKS. HAK TELLS
REPORTERS WEDNESDAY HE REMAINS CONVINCED PARTIES "ARE
MOVING TOWARDS EACH OTHER, NOT AWAY".

4. SAIKOWSKI GIVES DETAILS OF MA'ALOT ATTACK IN PAGE 1
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CSM PIECE "MIDEAST TENSION HEIGHTENED BY TERRORISTS:
GUERRILLA ATTACK ON ISRAELI CHILDREN THROWS NEW TANGLE
IN FRONT OF KISSINGER MISSION." SAYS US WILL DO UTMOST
NOT TO LET TERRORISTS DISRUPT DISENGAGEMENT EFFORTS,
ALTHOUGH ATTACK CAST PALL OVER HAK PARTY. SAIKOWSKI
REPORTS ATTACK HAS CHANGED THE ATMOSPHERE IN ISRAEL MAKING
CONCESSIONS LESS LIKELY. US OFFICIALS ON HAK PLANE
TELL NEWSMEN HILLS AROUND KUNEITRA NOT "THE" STICKING

POINT BUT ADMIT "ASPECTS" OF THE HILLS A PROBLEM.

5. O'LEARY REPORTS ON MA'ALOT ATTACK IN PAGE 1 STORY "ISRAEL ALERT FOR NEW ATTACKS", HAS NORTHERN ISRAEL ON ALERT AFTER REPORTS OF NEW ARAB INFILTRATIONS. O'LEARY SAYS AN ISRAELI COUNTER STRIKE WILL FURTHER DIMINISH PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF HAK MISSION. COMPANION PIECE PAGE 8 UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER PUSHES FOR GOLAN PEACE DESPITE TRAGEDY" REPORTS HAK GOING THROUGH WITH VISIT TO ASSAD TO PROVE TERRORISTS CANNOT DISRUPT ORDERLY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS BY "THIS MINDLESS AND IRRATIONAL ACTION". HAK REPORTED CLOSETED WITH HIS STAFF MOST OF WEDNESDAY, EMERGING TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES TO MRS. MEIR.

6. UPI TODAY CARRIES FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF ISRAELI RETALIATORY AIR STRIKES INTO LEBANON. ALSO REPORTS HAK TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM FRIDAY NIGHT WITH MORE SOLID IDEA OF OUTCOME OF HIS LONGEST AND MOST COMPLICATED MIDDLE EAST PEACE MISSION AND MUST RETURN TO WASHINGTON BY SUNDAY NIGHT.

7. EARLY AFTERNOON SCHWEID (AP) ALSO SAYS ISRAELI RAIDS ADD NEW ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY TO HAK MISSION; LATE P.M. ADDS THAT PROPOSED 10-DAY TRUCE TALK SUSPENSION HEIGHTENS UNCERTAINTY. SCHWEID REPORTS NEWSMEN ON PLANE TO DAMASCUS DID NOT GET CUSTOMARY BRIEFING FROM SENIOR US OFFICIALS; THEREFORE IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE IF MEIR INFORMED HAK OF ISRAELI ATTACK IN ADVANCE. SAYS HAK MAY STILL TRY TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON BY SUNDAY BUT MAY MAKE BRIEF STOPS IN EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE.

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